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# UPSC CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION (MAINS) PREVIOUS 9 YEARS' SOLVED PAPERS (2013-2021)



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# ART OF ANSWER WRITING

The main examination is intended to assess the overall intellectual traits and depth of understanding of candidates rather than merely the range of their information and memory. So, scoring well in the Civil Services Main Exam is crucial to finally get into the services of one's choice. Thus, one has to master the technique of writing a perfect answer to fetch good marks. A good answer is generally divided into the introduction, body and conclusion.

## Introduction

- It is the precursor to the actual content of the answer.
- As it is said, "first impression is the last impression", writing an impressive introduction is the first opportunity to impress an examiner.
- There may be various ways to write an introduction, such as:
  - Relating the answer to a recent happening or event of significance;
  - Writing a precise sentence of what will follow in detail in the answer;
  - Defining the most important concept in the question asked.

## Body

- It is the actual content of the answer.
- It should contain all the dimensions/perspectives related to the questions asked. The more the dimensions one includes in an answer, the more chances are there to get good marks.
- It should contain all the relevant concepts, facts and figures.
- One should try to address the positive as well as negative aspects of the initiatives/issues mentioned in the question.
- One's content of the answer should be according to the demand of the question, which is explicitly conveyed by the use of directive words in the question, such as *discuss, analyse, comment, explain, etc.*

## Conclusion

- It is again an important component of the answer. It leaves the final impression in the mind of the examiner.
- One should be optimistic and forward-looking in the conclusion but at the same time, be realistic too.
- Conclusion may vary as per the demand of the answer but some of the ways to conclude an answer are:
  - Taking a balanced view weighing the pros and cons of the steps/initiatives;
  - Providing the suggestions/solutions to improve the situation/problem;
  - Relating the main content of the answer to the present situations;
  - Summarising in few words what you have already stated.

### Five Steps to Write a Good Answer

- **Step 1:** One should understand the question in its entirety. To get a comprehensive understanding of the question, underline the keywords and read the question at least two times.
- **Step 2:** Brainstorm for a minute or two on the main theme of the question. Without knowledge or clear understanding of the main theme you will not be able to frame a good answer.
- **Step 3:** Organise your answer into headings and sub-headings in advance.
- **Step 4:** Write the answer keeping in mind the essential points under the introduction, body and conclusion.
- **Step 5:** Revise your answer and have a final check for the spelling and grammatical errors. Also underline the essential arguments/keywords of the answer to attract the attention of the examiner.



# *General Studies – I*

**SYLLABUS**  
**General Studies-I**  
*Indian Heritage and Culture,  
History and Geography of the World and Society*

- ❖ Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.
- ❖ Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present significant events, personalities, issues.
- ❖ The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.
- ❖ Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.
- ❖ History of the world will include events from 18<sup>th</sup> century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawal of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc. – their forms and effect on the society.
- ❖ Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
- ❖ Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.
- ❖ Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- ❖ Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.
- ❖ Salient features of world's physical geography.
- ❖ Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).
- ❖ Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location-changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

**Question 1: Evaluate the nature of Bhakti Literature and its contribution to Indian culture. (150 words) [10]**

*Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.*

**Answer:** Originally began in South India in the 9<sup>th</sup> century with Shankaracharya, the Bhakti Literature spread over all parts of India and by the 16<sup>th</sup> century and became a great spiritual force to reckon with, especially after the great wave made by Kabir, Nanak and Shri Chaitanya.

#### **Nature of Bhakti Literature:**

- Bhakti and Sufi supported each other. Various recitation of sufi saints found place in Sikhs' religious canons.
- Spread of Bhakti cult due to adoption of vernacular languages which was easy to be understood by masses.
- It preached for removal of sectarianism and casteism. The Bhakti literature called for inclusion of castes and out-castes.

#### **Contribution of Bhakti Literature:**

- The Bhakti literature promoted the growth of vernacular language in different parts of the country.
  - Bengali was used by Chaitanya and by the poet Chandidas, who wrote extensively on the theme of the love of Radha and Krishna.
  - Shankaradeva popularised the use of the Assamese in the Brahmaputra valley in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. He used an entirely new medium to spread his ideas.
  - Marathi reached its apogee at the hands of saints like Eknath and Tukaram.
  - Other prominent saints like Kabir, Nanak, and Tulsidas contributed enormously to regional literature and language with their captivating verses and spiritual exposition.
- Emergence of a new cultural tradition with the influence of Bhakti and sufism. Also emergence of new sects like Sikhism, Kabir panth etc.
- Post-Vedanta ideas were explored by Madhvacharya through his Dvaitadvaita, by Ramanujacharya in his Vishishtadvaita etc.
- As a literary movement, it liberated poetry from singing the praises of kings and introduced spiritual themes. From a style point of view, it introduced simple and accessible styles like vachanas (in Kannada), saakhis, dohas and other forms in various languages and ended the hegemony of Sanskrit metrical forms.

The ideas of Bhakti Movement continued to permeate the cultural ethos of the society through the enormous body of literature left by them. The congruence in their ideas not only saved us from the likely internecine conflicts but also built the spirit of tolerance.

**Question 2: Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. (150 words) [10]**

*Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.*

**Answer:** When the British came to India, they introduced the English language as well as certain Western ideas. This led to the development of new Indian middle-class intelligentsia, where people like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chand Vidyasagar, Dayanand Saraswati, etc. spread the ideals of liberty, social and economic equality, democracy and justice.

#### **Brahmo Samaj and Raja Ram Mohan Roy:**

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy is known as the father of Modern India's Renaissance and a tireless social reformer who inaugurated the age of enlightenment and liberal reformist modernisation in India.

**Question 16:** India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its developments. Elaborate. **(250 words) [15]**

*Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).*

**Answer:** Solar energy is a renewable source of energy that is sustainable and inexhaustible, unlike fossil fuels. Fortunately, India has been endowed with huge solar energy potential with 5,000 trillion kWh per year energy incident over India's land area and most parts receiving 4-7 kWh per sq. m per day.

However, different parts of Earth's surface receive different amounts of sunlight; therefore, all regions are not equally suitable for solar power generation. Since almost half of India lies in the tropical region while the other half in the temperate region, therefore all regions within the country are not equally suitable for solar energy generation.

South Western parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh are some of the best states suited for solar power generation, as they lie in the tropics. On the other hand, areas of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar are comparatively less suited to solar power generation, as they are mainly concentrated in temperate regions.

Besides solar radiation intensity, various other factors responsible for installation of solar power plants are quality of local physical terrain, environment, and distance of the site from the nearest substations for grid connectivity.

As per current position (May 2020), Karnataka leads the solar power production in the country with a total installed capacity of about 7100 MW. The second position is occupied by Telangana (5000 MW) followed by Rajasthan (4400 MW).

India is a solar rich country and is also leading the International Solar Alliance (ISA). In fact, India's prolific solar power producing states are boosting India's ability and willingness to ensure fulfilment of the country's aim of achieving 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022.

**Question 17:** Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change. **(250 words) [15]**

*Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).*

**Answer:** According to the 'India State of Forest Report 2019' the total forest and tree cover in India is 80.73 million hectares which is around 24.56% of the total geographical area of the country. These forests and trees deliver important ecosystem goods and services. Any major change caused in the available forest resources, directly or indirectly affects climate change.

### Forest Resources and Climate Change

Different forest types are a gateway to different wood and non-wood forest resources. Forests also provide food, fiber, edible oils, and drugs. Forest is an important source of minerals and minor forest produce like tendu and honey.

These forest resources in India despite being under protection laws suffer as open access resources. Due to this, almost 78% of the forest area is subjected to heavy grazing and other unregulated uses. Forests are also prone to illegal mining activities and slash and burn agricultural practices in certain areas. With increase in population, the pressure on forest resources have increased. This over-exploitation of resources has aggravated the impact of climate change.

**Abdur Razak**

He visited the Vijayanagara kingdom during the reign of Devaraya II of Sangama dynasty. He describes the richness of the kingdom and also revenue system of the kingdom. His description about trade in Vijayanagara has been at the centre of appreciation. He also describes the architecture and glory of the city of Hampi.

Though there are issues associated with the reliability of the accounts provided by these travellers owing to their personal biases, still they are key sources for finding out the missing links in the reconstruction of Indian history.

**Question 3:** Throw light on the significance of thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.

**(150 words) [10]**

*The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.*

**Answer:** Gandhian thoughts underline the most humane way to resolve many of the problems that plague our times, as can be ascertained from the list given below:

Gandhian Thoughts	Significance
Non-violence	The ideal of non-violence needs to guide the approach of individuals as well as nations and world-organizations, as violence initiates a vicious circle of repression and injustice.
Satyagraha	The moral framework of resistance which marked satyagraha is especially pertinent in the times when the Nation-States are becoming all more powerful vis-a-vis citizens. Satyagraha makes the only dominant choice in the face of any injustice.
Swaraj	In the age of markets laden with products based on generating and gratifying instinct of social approval and when public-imagination is becoming increasingly vulnerable to demagogues, the idea of Swaraj which had economic, social, spiritual and political connotations continues to be significant.
Eliminating Untouchability	Caste-violence has still not ceased to be a feature of Indian-public life. The Gandhian ideal of social consciousness to eliminate it needs to be taken forward.
Women Emancipation	With glass-ceiling still far from being shattered in the public sphere, the Gandhian thought of women emancipation continues to hold relevance.

Gandhian thoughts about compassion, punctuality, sanitation and environment protection are the other ideals that continue to hold value in our times marked by strife, procrastination in public and private lives, casual attitude towards hygiene and least concern for environment among general masses.

Ultimately, all ideals and thoughts of the Mahatma were conceived by him via a process of life long experimentation with truths and this makes Gandhian thoughts most significant in an era which is also being called by a few as the post-truth era.

**Question 4:** Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation?

**(150 words) [10]**

*Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).*

**Answer: IRNSS:** NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is an independent and indigenous regional navigation satellite system developed by India. It is a set of 8 satellites which will be located in suitable orbital slots – geostationary or geosynchronous.

It makes India only the sixth country in the world to have its own navigation system. This frees India from dependence on other countries for its navigation (GPS, GLONASS, Galileo etc.).



### Women Freedom Fighters During Revolt of 1857

- The role played by women in the 1857 Revolt was incredible and admired even by Britishers. Rani of Ramgarh, Rani Jindan Kaur, Rani Tace Bai, Baiza Bai, Chauhan Rani, Tapasvini Maharani daringly led their troops into the battlefield.
- Women led armies comprised of Hindus and Muslims who accepted their leaderships, thus showing religious unity.
- Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi fought with great heroism and showed superb leadership. She laid an outstanding example of real patriotism.
- According to Sir Hugh Rose, who led British forces against Rani Lakshmi Bai, "She was the bravest and best military leader of the rebels. A man among mutineers".

### Women Freedom Fighters during 1857-1947

- Indian women who joined the national movement belonged to educated and liberal families, as well as those from rural areas and from all walks of life, all castes, religions and communities.
- **Swadeshi Movement:** During Swadeshi campaign, their activities were limited to the boycott of foreign cloth and picketing of liquor shops. A nationalistic cult around Bharat Mata started to emerge which further necessitated more women in the freedom struggle.
- **Home Rule Movement:** In the conception and the program of the movement, women like Annie Besant played a significant role.

### Gandhian Era

Gandhi realized the immense sacrificing potential of women and encouraged them to participate and lead the movements.

- **Non-cooperation Movement:** Sarla Devi, Muthulaxmi Reddy, Susheela Nair, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sucheta Kripalani and Aruna Asaf Ali are some of the women who participated in the non-cooperation movement. They picketed British shops, boycotted British goods and participated in agitations.
- **Civil Disobedience Movement:** During Civil Disobedience, women volunteers participated in marches, boycotts and prabhat pheris. Desh Sevika Sangh, patriotic groups were formed for passive resistance. Sarojini Naidu, Muthulaxmi Reddy, Kamla Nehru, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Swarup Rani and Margret Cousins were put in jail. 14 year old Rani Gaidinliu was arrested for leading protests in Nagaland.
- **Quit India Movement:** Aruna Asaf Ali, Usha Mehta (Azad Radio) and Sucheta Kripalani participated in the Quit India Movement by helping in the underground activities like disrupting the railway lines, burning down the police station and destroying the telegraph services.
- **Revolutionary Activities:** Durgavati Devi helped Bhagat Singh in his escape after the Saunders killing. Kalpana Dutt of Indian Republican Army led the armed resistance along with Surya Sen. She was joined with Pritilata Waddadar in 1931 in attacking the European Club in Chittagong. Dr. Lakshmi Sehgal headed the Rani Jhansi Regiment of the Indian National Army. Veena Das made an attempt to assassinate Stanley Jackson, the then Governor of Bengal.

The freedom struggle movement witnessed the altogether changed perspective of women in two ways in the history of India. Firstly, they marked their successful and decisive leadership along with the changing concept of "Women uplift" to "equal rights" with that of men and secondly they joined the movement in a massive participation.

**Question 4:** Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. **(200 words) [10]**

 The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country.



## *General Studies – II*

**SYLLABUS**  
**General Studies-II**  
***Governance, Constitution, Polity,***  
***Social Justice and International Relations***

- ❖ Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.
- ❖ Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.
- ❖ Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.
- ❖ Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries.
- ❖ Parliament and State legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.
- ❖ Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.
- ❖ Salient features of the Representation of People’s Act.
- ❖ Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- ❖ Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.
- ❖ Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.
- ❖ Development processes and the development industry – the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- ❖ Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
- ❖ Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- ❖ Issues relating to poverty and hunger.
- ❖ Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance-applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.
- ❖ Role of civil services in a democracy.
- ❖ India and its neighborhood-relations.
- ❖ Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- ❖ Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.
- ❖ Important International institutions, agencies and fora – their structure, mandate.

**Question 1:** 'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions. **(150 words) [10]**

*Indian Constitution – historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.*

**Answer:** Constitutional Morality is defined as the adherence to the principles of the constitutional values. It includes commitment to inclusive and democratic political process. According to Dr. Ambedkar, the concept of constitutional morality implied the harmonious interaction between the governing and governed.

Though the term 'Constitutional Morality' is not found in the Constitution, nevertheless it is rooted in various facets of the Constitution, such as in:

- Preamble (values like justice, liberty, equality and fraternity)
- Fundamental Rights
- Fundamental Duties
- Directive Principles of State Policy

The doctrine of constitutional morality safeguards and upholds the enforcement of rule of law in the country. It recognizes this distinction and non-homogeneity and promotes diversity, helping to make the society more inclusive. It also promotes people to be an active participant of the system and fight the inequalities and non-constitutional elements.

**The Supreme Court has been vocal about constitutional morality. To illustrate:**

- In the *Krishnamoorthy case* (2015), the Court held that democracy expects prevalence of genuine orderliness, positive propriety, dedicated discipline and sanguine sanctity by constant affirmance of constitutional morality which is the pillar stone of good governance.
- In *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy case* (2018), the SC held that constitutional morality ensures that courts must neutralise the excesses of power by the executive and strike down any legislation or even executive action if it is unconstitutional.
- In the *Government of NCT of Delhi case* (2018), the Court equated constitutional morality to a 'second basic structure doctrine'. It said that constitutional morality acts as a check on arbitrary use of power as it implies strict and complete adherence to the constitutional principles.
- In the *Indian Young Lawyer's Association case* (2018), commonly known as the Sabrimala case, the Supreme Court bypassed the doctrine of essentiality (the principle protecting the 'integral' religious practices of a community) to uphold the supremacy of constitutional morality.

Constitutional morality is crucial for constitutional laws to be effective. Without constitutional morality, the operation of the constitution tends to become arbitrary. However, the concept of constitutional morality need not be determined by the Supreme Court at every given instance. It is a sentiment that needs to be cultivated in the minds of citizens.

**Question 2:** Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. **(150 words) [10]**

*Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary – Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.*

**Answer:** In the recent instances concerning women in judiciary, the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana called for 50% representation of women in the judiciary.



**Answer:** Institutional quality in a democracy determines how successful the government machinery adheres to the principles of public service, rule of law, and social justice. One such institution is the Civil Services, which acts as a link between the government and citizenry strengthening democracy and furthering economic objectives such as sustainable growth and development.

### Challenges Faced By Civil Services in India

- **Status Quoist:** As instruments of public service, civil servants have to be ready for change. The common experience, however, is that they resist changes as they are wedded to their privileges and prospects and thereby, have become ends in themselves.
  - For example, the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution have envisaged democratic decentralization.
  - However, due to the reluctance on the part of the civil servants to accept the changes in control and accountability, the intended vision has not been achieved.
- **Rule-Book Bureaucracy:** It means following the rules and laws, in words and not in spirit, without taking care of the actual needs of the people. Due to rule book bureaucracy, some civil servants have developed the attitude of 'bureaucratic behaviour' which brings issues like red-tapism and poor responses to the needs of the people.
- **Political Interference:** The political representatives for the sake of fulfilling the populist demand, often influence the functioning of administrative officials. This leads to issues like corruption and arbitrary transfers of honest civil servants, an important reason for inefficient implementation of policies.

### Civil Services Reforms

- **Prompt Delivery of Services:** Every department should seek to simplify their processes to cut administrative delays and ensure participatory feedback mechanisms for efficient service delivery.
- **Reducing Discretion & Enhancing Accountability Mechanism:** There is an inherent need to set key responsibility/focus areas and progressively reduce discretionary aspects to evaluate civil servants.
  - Online Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) should be instituted in all central and state cadres.
  - Also, as suggested by many committees, there is a need to develop benchmarks to assess the performance of officers and compulsorily retire those deemed unable to meet the benchmarks.
- **Incorporation of Code of Ethics:** As suggested by 2nd ARC, along with streamlining of code of conduct rules, there is a need to inculcate ethical underpinning in the civil servants by implementing the Code of Ethics. This will sensitize civil servants to the problems of people.

Sardar Patel considered the civil service "the steel frame of government machinery". However, without adequate reforms, this steel frame may start to get corroded and may collapse.

**Question 8:** "The emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss. (150 words) [10]

*Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.*

**Answer:** The Fourth Industrial Revolution is a way of describing the blurring of boundaries between the physical, digital, and biological worlds. It's a fusion of advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), quantum computing, and other technologies. It is about more than just technology-driven change; it is an opportunity to help everyone, including government, policy-makers and people to harness converging technologies in order to create an inclusive, human-centred future.

- However, the President or Governor shall act according to the advice of the Election Commission of India.
- In case of any enquiry, the Election Commission is conferred the powers of a civil court for summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person or any evidence.
- Besides, after a legislator is disqualified, the Election Commission may, on certain grounds, remove any disqualification or reduce the period of any disqualification.

**Question 12:** “Parliament’s power to amend the Constitution is limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power.” In light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? **(250 words) [15]**

*Indian Constitution – historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.*

**Answer:** Article 368 of the Indian constitution gives the parliament the power to amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of the constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down by the law. The power to amend the constitution is necessary to overcome the challenges and to meet the demands for the nation’s growth and development.

However, in the process of amending the Constitution under Article 368, the Parliament at times has breached the constitutional limits by transgressing the areas related to the federal relation between Union and States, issues of individual liberty, and to a certain extent misused Article 368 itself. This is evident from amendments like 25<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Acts which have threatened the principle of constitutionalism.

Therefore, the Supreme Court intervened to create a harmonious balance between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy which eventually led to the emergence of the doctrine of ‘Basic Structure’ of the constitution.

The emergence and the application of the doctrine of ‘Basic Structure’ can be seen in light of the Supreme Court judgments.

- **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973):** The Supreme Court held that the Parliament’s power to amend the constitution is limited as it cannot alter the ‘Basic Structure’ of the constitution.
  - A limited amending power is one of the basic features of the constitution and, therefore, the limitations on that power cannot be destroyed.
  - Parliament cannot, under Article 368, expand its amending power so as to acquire for itself the right to repeal or abrogate the Constitutional provisions which threaten the basic features or the Constitution itself.
- **Minerva Mills v. Union of India Case (1980):** The Supreme Court struck down clauses (4) and (5) of Article 368 inserted by 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, on the ground that these clauses destroyed the essential feature of the basic structure of the constitution.
- **Chandra Kumar v. Union of India Case (1997):** The judgment held that every provision of the Constitution was open to amendment provided the basic foundation or structure of the Constitution was not damaged or destroyed.

Thus, the Parliament is restricted in its power to amend the Constitution so that the soul of Constitution as envisaged by founding fathers of India remains intact. It is to be noted that, the doctrine of basic structure does not undermine the legislative competence of the Parliament, rather it helps in maintaining the supremacy of the constitution and upholding the constitutional spirit.

**Question 13:** “The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process.” Comment. **(250 words) [15]**

*Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.*

**Commission on Population and Development:** It monitors, reviews and assesses the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and global levels, identifying reasons for success and failure, and advising the Council thereon.

**Commission for Social Development:** It advises ECOSOC on social policies of a general character and, in particular, on all matters in the social field not covered by the specialised intergovernmental agencies.

**Commission on the Status of Women:** It is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

**Commission on Narcotic Drugs:** It assists the ECOSOC in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties.

**Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:** It acts as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

**Commission on Science and Technology for Development:** It provides the General Assembly and ECOSOC with high-level advice on relevant science and technology issues.

**United Nations Forum on Forests:** It is an intergovernmental body to strengthen political commitment and action with respect to sustainable forest management.

**Question 11:** Explain the salient features of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough “to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services”? **(250 words) [15]**

 *Indian Constitution – historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.*

**Answer:** The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 provides for the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. GST is one of the biggest indirect tax reforms in India.

### Salient Features of the Act

- It amalgamates a large number of Central and State taxes (like Central Excise Duty, Countervailing Duty, Service Tax, value added tax, octroi etc) into a single tax.
- It inserts a new Article 246A in the Constitution to give the central and state governments the concurrent power to make laws on the taxation of goods and services.
- Only the centre may levy and collect an integrated GST in the course of inter-state trade which is to be divided between the centre and the states.
- It provides for the constitution of a GST Council to develop a harmonized national market of goods and services.
- It makes provision for compensation to states for revenue losses arising out of the implementation of the GST.

### Cascading Effect of Taxes

GST follows a multi-stage collection mechanism in which tax is collected at every stage and the credit of tax paid at the previous stage is available as a set off at the next stage of transaction. This means that tax paid on inputs is deducted from the tax payable on the output produced (input tax credit). This is expected to mitigate the ill effects of cascading. However, the effectiveness of this will depend on the level of digital literacy of the traders and the efficient functioning of the GST Network (GSTN). ‘One Nation, One Tax and One Market’.

### GST to make India a Common National

- Uniform tax rates and procedures.
- Removal of hurdles in inter-State transactions as only IGST will be applied on inter-State trade.



## *General Studies – III*



## SYLLABUS

### General Studies-III

#### *Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management*

- ❖ Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
- ❖ Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.
- ❖ Government Budgeting.
- ❖ Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.
- ❖ Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System-objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.
- ❖ Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management.
- ❖ Land reforms in India.
- ❖ Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.
- ❖ Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.
- ❖ Investment models.
- ❖ Science and Technology – developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
- ❖ Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- ❖ Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.
- ❖ Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.
- ❖ Disaster and disaster management.
- ❖ Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
- ❖ Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.
- ❖ Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.
- ❖ Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.
- ❖ Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

**Question 1:** Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015. **(150 words) [10]**

*Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.*

**Answer:** GDP is a measure primarily used as a yardstick to gauge the growth of an economy. In 2015, a new series was announced to calculate India's GDP by upgrading the methodology with new data sources to meet UN standards.

**Difference between old and new methodology:**

■ **Change in Base Year**

- Pre-2015: 2004-05
- Post 2015: 2011-12
- Change of base year to calculate GDP is done in line with the global exercise to capture economic information accurately.

■ **Change in data used to measure manufacturing sector growth**

- Pre-2015: The performance of the manufacturing sector was previously evaluated using data from the IIP and the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), which comprises over two lakh factories.
- Post-2015: Now, firms' annual accounts filed with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA 21) are used, which includes around five lakh companies.

■ **GDP at factor cost replaced by GDP at market price**

- Pre-2015: GDP at factor cost was calculated.
- Post-2015: Adopted the international practice of GDP at market price and for sector-wise estimate, Gross Value added (GVA) at basic price.
- The new measures include not only the cost of production but also product subsidies and taxes.

■ **Calculation of labour income**

- Pre-2015: All labour used to be equal.
- Post-2015: The new series has used a concept called "effective labor input". Different weights are assigned on whether one was an owner, a hired professional or a helper.

■ **Change in the way value addition in agriculture was captured**

- Pre-2015: It was confined to value addition in farm produce.
- Post-2015: Value addition in agriculture is now taken beyond farm produce.
- Livestock data is now critical to the new method.

■ **Capturing income generated by Financial Sector**

- **Pre-2015:** Financial corporations in the private sector, other than banking and insurance, was limited to a few mutual funds (primarily UTI) and estimates for the Non-Government Non-Banking Finance Companies as compiled by RBI.
- **Post-2015:** The coverage of financial sector has been expanded by including stock brokers, stock exchanges, asset management companies, mutual funds and pension funds, as well as the regulatory bodies, SEBI, PFRDA and IRDA.

The new method is statistically more robust since it estimates more indicators such as consumption, employment, and the performance of enterprises, and incorporates factors that are more responsive to current changes.

- Renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks,
  - Reuse of water and recharging of structures,
  - Watershed development, and
  - Intensive afforestation.
- The water conservation interventions will also be supplemented with special interventions including the development of block and district water conservation plans, promotion of efficient water use for irrigation and better choice of crops through Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Following the massive water crisis across India in the summer of 2019, the Central government hurriedly launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA). These kind of interventions would ensure water source sustainability in rural areas and would strengthen the ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

**Question 9: Discuss different types of cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace. (150 WORDS) [10]**

*Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.*

**Answer:** Cyber crime is a criminal activity that involves computers or any network devices that target individuals, companies, and governments for direct financial gain or to sabotage or disrupt operations. Cyber crime is a major threat to sectors identified under Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) that include financial systems, air traffic control and telecommunications.

#### Different types of Cyber crimes

- **Malware**, short for malicious software, refers to any kind of software that is designed to cause damage to a single computer, server, or computer network. Ransomware, Spyware, Worms, viruses, and Trojans are all varieties of malware.
- **Phishing:** It is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.
- **Denial of Service attacks:** A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack is an attack meant to shut down a machine or network, making it inaccessible to its intended users. DoS attacks accomplish this by flooding the target with traffic or sending it information that triggers a crash.
- **Man-in-the-middle (MitM) attacks**, also known as eavesdropping attacks, occur when attackers insert themselves into a two-party transaction. Once the attackers interrupt the traffic, they can filter and steal data.
- **Social engineering** is an attack that relies on human interaction to trick users into breaking security procedures to gain sensitive information that is typically protected.

#### Measures to be taken

- Real-time intelligence is required for preventing and containing cyber-attacks.
- Periodical 'Backup of Data' is a solution to ransomware.
- Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for predicting and accurately identifying attacks.
- Using the knowledge gained from actual attacks that have already taken place in building effective and pragmatic defense.
- Increased awareness about cyber threats for which digital literacy is required first.
- There is a need to secure the computing environment and IoT with current tools, patches, updates and best-known methods in a timely manner.
- The need of the hour is to develop core skills in cyber security, data integrity and data security fields while also setting stringent cyber security standards to protect banks and financial institutions.

- Growth can be 'inclusive' and "pro-poor", if and only if the incomes of poor people grow faster than those of the population as a whole, i.e., inequality declines. By focusing on inequality, the inclusive growth could lead to optimal outcomes for both poor and non-poor households.
- Sustained, high growth rates and poverty reduction, however, can be realized only when the sources of growth are expanding, and an increasing share of the labour force is included in the growth process in an efficient way i.e. growth associated with progressive distributional changes will have a greater impact in reducing poverty than growth which leaves distribution unchanged.
- The inclusive growth approach takes a longer-term perspective, where it is important to recognize the time lag between reforms and outcomes. Inclusive growth analytics is about policies that should be implemented in the short run, but for sustainable, inclusive growth in the future. For example, the lag between the time when investments in education are made and the time when returns from improved labour skills are realised – this implies that the growth analysis must identify future constraints to growth that may not be binding today, but that may need to be addressed today in order to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Sustainable development should be followed wherein we should not only be inclusive with respect to people but also bring the environment in its inclusion thus causing minimum depletion of resources and going for a circular economy.
- In the past few years, the government is aggressively focusing on the strategy of inclusive growth in its various programs and policies. For example, Jan Dhan Yojana has focused on incorporating the unbanked masses into the financial sector and has increased financial inclusion statistics to more than 80%.

In the last few decades, India's growth story has been phenomenal but the outcomes of this growth were not visible on the ground as India has performed badly in several social indicators as well as Human Development Index. Therefore inclusive growth is the idea to realize the dream of sustainable and qualitative development for present and future generations.

**Question 12:** The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in the context of budget-making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it. **(250 words) [15]**

 *Government Budgeting.*

**Answer:** The public expenditure management is an instrument of government's fiscal policy and mechanism for good governance. The broad objectives of public expenditure management (PEM) are to maintain fiscal discipline, strategic allocation of resources, operational efficiency and macro-economic stability.

In the aftermath of the LPG reforms in 1991, the government faced several macroeconomic challenges in public expenditure management which are as follows:

- **Global Shocks:** Global slowdown, trade wars, oil price fluctuations, etc., impact the budget estimates which in turn impacts the collection of tax revenues and allocation of subsidies.
- **Narrow Tax Net:** More reliance on indirect tax makes the taxation policy more regressive. It also constrains the government to increase its social spending, which is low in India as compared to other major global economies.
- **Less Capital Expenditure:** Budget's capital expenditure is essential to ensure inter-generational equity and competitiveness of the economy. It has remained around 10%-12% of government expenditure.
- **Populist Tendencies:** This leads to unproductive spending of the scarce government resources. For example, giving tax sops, farm loan waivers, etc., in the pre-election period.
- **Fiscal Deficit:** More government expenditure to boost economic growth has widened the fiscal deficit. So, keeping the deficit within the desired limit is essential for maintaining the fiscal prudence.
- **Managing Public Debt:** It is essential to ensure that the burden of the current generation's needs does not fall on the next generation.



### Fears Associated with Nuclear Energy

- **Safety Issues:** Historical accidents like Chernobyl and recent ones like Fukushima raise persistent doubt about human safety and its impact on the environment. This has led nations like Germany and Japan to phase out use of Nuclear energy.
- **Waste Management:** There is difficulty in the management of nuclear waste. It takes many years to eliminate its radioactivity and risks associated are high.
- **Security:** Terrorist and other mischievous organizations can create global havoc by getting access to critical nuclear material or technology.

With Indian motto of 'atoms for peace', nuclear energy can act as a great catalyst for inclusive growth and development by providing much needed energy security, so that India should continue to expand nuclear energy programme.

**Question 17:** How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna? (250 words) [15]

*Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.*

**Answer:** Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living organisms. Bio-geographically, India is situated at the tri-junction of three realms namely Afro-tropical, Indo-Malayan, and Paleo-Arctic realms, and therefore, has characteristic elements from each of them. This assemblage of three distinct realms probably is a fact which is believed to partly account for its rich and unique biological diversity.

### Variations According to Bio-geographic Regions

- **The Himalayan Region:** The altitude gradient results in the tremendous biodiversity of the region. There exist tropical rainforests in the eastern Himalayas, dense subtropical and alpine forests in central and western Himalayas. Sambar, serow, goral, Himalayan tahr, snow leopard and brown bear inhabit this region.
- **The Indian Desert:** The natural vegetation consists of tropical thorn forests and tropical dry deciduous forests, sandy deserts with seasonal salt marshes and mangroves. Thar desert possesses most of the major insect species. 43 reptile species and moderate bird endemism are found here.
- **The Western Ghats:** This zone displays the diversity of forests from evergreen to dry deciduous. The Nilgiri langur, Lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, Malabar grey hornbill and most amphibian species are endemic to the Western Ghats.
- **The Deccan Peninsula:** Large parts are covered by tropical forests. Tropical dry deciduous forests occur in the northern, central and southern parts of the plateau. Fauna like tiger, sloth bear, wild boar, gaur, sambar, and chital are found throughout the zone.
- **The Gangetic Plains:** It includes tropical dry deciduous forest, littoral and mangrove regions of the Sunderbans. The fauna includes elephants, blackbuck, gazelle, rhinoceros, Bengal florican, crocodile, freshwater turtle, and a dense waterfowl community.
- **The North East:** The tropical vegetation of northeast India is rich in evergreen and semi-evergreen rain forests, moist deciduous monsoon forests, swamps, and grasslands. Mammalian fauna includes 390 species, of which 63% are found in Assam.
- **The Indian Islands:** About 2,200 species of higher plants are found here of which many are endemic.

### National Biodiversity Act (NBA), 2002

NBA was enacted to preserve the biological diversity in India and provides a mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of traditional biological resources and knowledge. It is helpful in the conservation of flora and fauna.



## *General Studies – IV*

**SYLLABUS**  
**General Studies-IV**  
***Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude***

This paper will include questions to test the candidates' attitude and approach to issues relating to integrity, probity in public life and his problem solving approach to various issues and conflicts faced by him in dealing with society. Questions may utilise the case study approach to determine these aspects. The following broad areas will be covered :

- ❖ Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in-human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics – in private and public relationships.
- ❖ Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- ❖ Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour; moral and political attitudes; social influence and persuasion.
- ❖ Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.
- ❖ Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- ❖ Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
- ❖ Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.
- ❖ Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
- ❖ Case Studies on above issues.

## SECTION – A

**Question 1 (a):** Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix. **(150 words) [10]**

*Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.*

**Answer:** Ethics can be defined as a set of “moral principles that govern a person’s behaviour or the conduct of an activity”. Ethics relates primarily to the nature of ultimate values and standards by which human actions can be judged. Ethics are subjective standard of rights and wrong.

For a civil servant, acting ethically is of utmost importance. A civil servant is supposed to possess the virtues of objectivity and impartiality. The five ethical traits – Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, Objectivity, and Selflessness – form the ethical foundation of a civil servant and other values like non-partisanship, tolerance, responsiveness can emanate from them. A matrix of ethical traits is discussed below, which is beneficial in performance evaluation of civil servants.

Ethical Trait	Reason for Inclusion
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Important for elimination of corruption.</li> <li>■ Leadership quality to act as a role model for others.</li> <li>■ Best utilisation of public resources and pursuit of professional excellence.</li> </ul>
Compassion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ An element of Emotional Intelligence</li> <li>■ Self-motivation to work for the weak and brings empathy towards them.</li> <li>■ Outcome and effectiveness orientation.</li> </ul>
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Makes administration transparent and public oriented.</li> <li>■ Builds public trust and deters unethical conduct.</li> <li>■ Makes civil servants answerable for their conduct and decisions.</li> </ul>
Objectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Decisions based on merit without personal bias.</li> <li>■ Makes a civil servant impartial and non-partisanship.</li> <li>■ Fairness in action and tolerance towards opposing views.</li> <li>■ Efficiency orientation.</li> </ul>
Selflessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prevents misuse of entrusted public resources and authority.</li> <li>■ Helps in resolving conflicts of interest, countering nepotism and cronyism.</li> </ul>

These traits ensure that a civil servant fulfills his professional obligation even in adverse situations. The ideal training programme for a civil servant should be a mix of ethical traits, procedural rules and practical situations.


**Question 1 (b):** Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in the public servants. **(150 words) [10]**

*Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service, integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker-sections.*

**Answer:** The ten essential values needed to be an effective public servant are:

- **Integrity:** Consistency in the value system, thoughts and conduct.
- **Leadership:** Ability to lead subordinates towards a desired goal.

**Question 6: (c)** “A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.” – Socrates (150 words) [10]

 Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.

**Answer:** Vulgarly is the antithesis of morality i.e. the choice based on emotions cannot be a moral choice. For example, when a choice is considered right and good if it makes one emotionally happy or excited then the choice can hardly be considered moral. In other words, if a choice or an argument or a supposition is not logically sound, then there cannot be truth in it.

Emotions can pose problems for morality in a variety of ways: by impeding judgment, by making attention uneven and partial, by making the person unstable and excessively needy and by suggesting impractical projects and goals.

To illustrate, a homeless person has built his hutment by the side of a busy road. If a municipal worker, moved by his plight, decides under the influence of emotions not to relocate him, then his decision is fraught with risks. Such a morality based on emotional values cannot be sustainable.

Thus, a system of morality should be based on logical foundations after considering all the possible repercussions, it should not be merely based on emotional values.

## SECTION – B

**Question 7:** Rajesh Kumar is a senior public servant with a reputation of honesty and forthrightness, currently posted in the Finance Ministry as Head of the Budget Division. His department is presently busy organizing the budgetary support to the states, four of which are due to go to the polls within the financial year.

This year's annual budget had allotted Rs. 8300 crores for the National Housing Scheme (NHS), a centrally sponsored social housing scheme for the weaker sections of society. ₹775 crores have been drawn for the NHS till June.

The Ministry of Commerce had long been pursuing a case for setting up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in a southern state to boost exports. After two years of detailed discussions between the centre and state, the Union Cabinet approved the project in August. The process was initiated to acquire the necessary land.

Eighteen months ago, a leading Public Sector Unit (PSU) had projected the need for setting up a large natural gas processing plant in a northern state for the regional gas grid. The required land is already in possession of the PSU. The gas grid is an essential component of the national energy security strategy. After three rounds of global bidding, the project was allotted to an MNC, M/s XYZ Hydrocarbons. The first tranche of payment to the MNC is scheduled to be made in December.


Finance Ministry was asked for a timely allocation of an additional Rs. 6000 crores for these two developmental projects. It was decided to recommend re-appropriation of this entire amount from the NHS allocation. The file was forwarded to the Budget Department for their comments and further processing. On studying the case file, Rajesh Kumar realized that this re-appropriation may cause inordinate delay in the execution of NHS, a project much publicized in the rallies of senior politicians. Correspondingly, non-availability of finances would cause financial loss in the SEZ and national embarrassment due to delayed payment in an international project.

Rajesh Kumar discussed the matter with his seniors. He was conveyed that this politically sensitive situation needs to be processed immediately. Rajesh Kumar realized that diversion of funds from the NHS could raise difficult questions for the government in the Parliament.

Discuss the following with reference to this case:




**Question 2: (b) “The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens’ empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability.” Discuss. (150 words) [10]**

 *Probity in Governance: Concept of public service; Philosophical basis of governance and probity; Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.*

**Answer:** The RTI Act is a powerful tool that strengthens democracy and promotes good governance by enhancing the citizen’s ability to participate in the process. It empowers the citizen to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, and enhances efficiency in administration of public authorities, thereby mitigating corruption. It is being used by citizens as a tool to bring in transparency and accountability at all levels of governance.

However, it is not about citizen empowerment alone. It is much more than just that. It actually redefines the concept of accountability. Democracy requires an informed citizenry and transparency of information which are vital to its functioning, and also to contain corruption and hold governments and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed. RTI fulfils that purpose substantially. Until the passage of this Act, the disclosure of information held by public authorities in India was governed exclusively by the Official Secrets Act, 1923. It was a legacy of the British colonial rule and it encouraged secrecy and opaqueness in administration and was designed to deny information about government activities to the people. An overhaul and redefinition of the system of civil services accountability have been made possible by the RTI Act.

**Question 3: (a) What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest. (150 words) [10]**

 *Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.*


**Answer:** It is a situation that has the potential to undermine the impartiality of a person because of the possibility of a clash between the person’s self-interest and professional interest or public interest. A civil servant is expected to be free of such a conflict to discharge his or her duties responsibly. Conflict of interest impairs one’s judgement of a situation and affects decision making. Personal or private interests should not influence the performance of official duties or responsibilities.

An actual conflict of interest involves a direct conflict between one’s official duties and responsibilities and a competing interest or obligation, whether personal or involving a third-party. It refers to situations where a conflict is inevitably established such as acceptance of gifts or hospitality from a company which one may be dealing with one’s official capacity.

A potential conflict of interest arises where an interest or obligation, whether personal or involving a third-party, could be a cause of conflict with official duties and responsibilities in the future. It refers to situations where a possible anomaly might arise (such as the conflicts with the immediate family interests unless disclosures are made) with respect to friendship, investment, gift or treats.

**Question 3: (b) “In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you.” – Warren Buffet**

**What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain. (150 words) [10]**

 *Human Values – lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.*

**Commerce without Morality:** As in wealth without work, we indulge in commerce without morality to make more money by any means possible. Price gouging, palming off inferior products, cheating and making false claims are a few of the obvious ways in which we indulge in commerce without morality.

**Science without Humanity:** This is when science is used to discover increasingly more gruesome measures of destruction that threaten to eventually wipe out humanity. It is globally accepted that guns do not kill people, people kill people.

**Worship without Sacrifice:** True religion is based on spirituality, love, compassion, understanding, and appreciation of each other whatever our beliefs may be – Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Atheists, Agnostics etc. Gandhi believed whatever labels we put on our faith, ultimately all of us worship truth because 'Truth is God'.

**Question 3: (a) Analyse John Rawls's concept of social justice in the Indian context. (150 words) [10]**

*Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.*

**Answer:** John Rawls in his theory of social justice attempts to solve the problem of distributive justice. Rawls derives two principles of justice: the liberty principle and the difference principle.

In his concept of the liberty principle, Rawls explains that each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty compatible with a similar liberty for others. In his concept of the difference principle, social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that:

- They are of the greatest benefit to the least advantaged members of society, consistent with the just saving principle.
- Offices and positions must be open to everyone under conditions to fair equality of opportunity.

An important aspect of Rawls's theory of justice is that decisions on the distribution of resources should be from the perspective of 'not knowing' what our own position in life is. If we decide to deprive others because we do not have a particular need, we are not operating in a just way for the entire society. If our choices are all about us and our needs, first this is unjust to everyone, and second, we may find ourselves at the mercy of others someday.

**Question 3: (b) Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Reforms Commission. (150 words) [10]**

*Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems; ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions; laws, rules, regulations and conscience as sources of ethical guidance; accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding; corporate governance.*

**Answer:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC recommends the preparation of the Public Service Code for guiding public service employees and managing their conduct.

Through the code, the government should promote public service values and a high standard of ethics in Public Service operations, requiring and facilitating every Public Service employee to discharge official duties with:

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ■ Competence and loyalty | ■ Integrity                    |
| ■ Care and diligence     | ■ Objectivity and impartiality |
| ■ Responsibility         | ■ No discrimination            |
| ■ Honesty                | ■ In accordance with the law   |

A 'Public Service Authority' is also envisaged to oversee the implementation of the code, violation of the code would invite punishments and penalties.